

Amnesty International



11 July 2007

Mr Rasoul Movahedian
Ambassador
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
16 Prince's Gate
London SW7 1PT

Dear Ambassador

Arrest and whereabouts of Mansour Ossanlu

I am writing to ask that you convey to your Government with urgency the deep concern of the UK branch of Amnesty International, about the current whereabouts and wellbeing of Mansour Ossanlu, the President of the Union of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company (*Sherkat-e Vahed*)

I understand that Mansour Ossanlu was beaten and abducted by plainclothes (*lebas shakhsi*) assailants on the afternoon of Tuesday 10 July, as he was boarding a *Sherkat-e Vahed* bus in front of his home. They reportedly beat him severely, and took him away in a metallic grey Peugeot to an undisclosed location.

I understand that his family and his colleagues do not know the identity of the assailants but they believe that a direct order has been issued by the Labour Minister, demanding the immediate seizure of Mr Ossanlu.

As you will know, Mansour Ossanlu was recently in London for meetings with the International Transport Workers' Federation (of which his union is an affiliate), aimed at building support for the trades union movement in Iran.

As a representative of working people, Mansour Ossanlu is entitled under the core labour standards of the International Labour Organisation, many of which Iran has ratified and committed to uphold, to associate freely and to go about his work without fear of harassment or intimidation.

As a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Iran is bound to adhere to principles in the administration of justice that ensure Mansour Ossanlu is treated with respect and that his safety is guaranteed and his whereabouts made known to his family and legal representative.

Amnesty International fears that he has been arbitrarily detained by the authorities and held in connection with his trades union activities. If this is the case, I would urge you to convey to your Government the need to immediately and unconditionally release him, in accordance with international standards of the administration of justice.

I would be very grateful for any information you can provide me about the arrest and whereabouts of Mansour Ossanlu, and for any assurances you can give me that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will abide by its international commitments and guarantee his safety and prompt release.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and making it public.

Yours sincerely

Kate Allen
Director

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